handicrafts, leather and gems & jewellery. Slowdown in the demand for automobiles and its ancillaries, steel etc. has also been seen.

Industrial groups such as food products, wool, silk & manmade fibre, cotton textiles, wool, silk and man-made fibre textiles, textile products, wood & wood products, leather, basic metal and alloy industries, metal products and parts, machinery and equipment other than transport equipment etc. registered a decline in the month of March, 2009.

Trade deficit due to global recession

444. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports and imports are getting hit big due to recession and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exact reasons therefor;

(c) the details of trade deficit recorded so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that India's exports will pick up from July onwards and may touch the $185 billion mark in 2009-10 on the back of diversification to countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof available with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of export, import and trade deficit recorded so far is given below:

(Value in US $ Billion)

Year	Exports	Growth Rate (%)	Imports	Growth Rate (%)	Trade Deficit (-)/ Surplus (+)
2007-2008	163.0	29.1	251.6	35.5	-88.6
2008-2009 (P)	168.7	3.5	287.8	14.4	-119.1
2009-10 (April-May)	21.8	-31.2	32.0	-38.0	-10.2

(P) - Provisional

DATA SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata

The slow growth of trade during 2008-09 and the negative growth of trade during current year 2009-10 (April-May) is primarily due to economic slowdown in India's major export destinations and slowdown in the domestic demand for industrial inputs and intermediate products.

(d) and (e) The world economy is still going through recession and therefore it is very difficult to forecast timeline for improvement in India's exports.

Scrapping of import duty on crude soyaoil

445. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: